



Missouri State Recycling Program

Office of Administration | General Services | 573-751-3384

Nearly 200 Pounds of Lights Recycled

MARCH 2021



ABOVE: During the holiday season, 184 pounds of lights were collected by state team members to be recycled.

State of Missouri team members recycled 184 pounds of Christmas lights during the 2020 holiday season through a drive facilitated by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS). This is the second drive held after a successful launch last year.

Despite the reduction in staff, who are primarily working from home because of COVID-19, collections were only down by 36 pounds compared to last year.

"I would like to thank everyone that helped and participated in holiday light collection this year. DHSS locations collected a total of 184 pounds that will be recycled," Tony Pierce of DHSS stated.

The Missouri State Public Health Laboratory (SPHL) staff had a significant collection increase over last year, making them the highest contributors to the collection this year.

Copper, plastic, and glass can all be recycled from the light strands and used to make other useful products. This collection helps keep harmful materials from polluting the environment.

PESTICIDE COLLECTION EVENT

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Pesticide Collection Program provides free collection events for farmers and households throughout the state of Missouri to properly dispose of unwanted waste pesticides. From 2012 to 2020, the program has conducted 56 events, collecting more than 630,000 pounds of waste pesticide from 1,751 participants. In 2021, DNR is again providing Missouri farmers and households with a convenient, free opportunity to properly dispose of unwanted waste pesticides including but not limited to herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, and fungicides. Contact C.J. Plassmeyer at chris.plassmeyer@dnr.mo.gov or 573-751-0616 for more information.

2021 Missouri Collection Events

Lincoln – Sat., June 5, 8 AM to noon
Producers Exchange No 84
21127 Hwy 65, Lincoln, MO 65338

Salisbury – Sat., June 26, 8 AM to noon Ricketts
Farm Service
29394 Sterling Ave., Salisbury, MO 65281

Kahoka – Sat., Aug. 28, 8 AM to noon
Prairieland FS, Inc.
23922 State Rt. 81, Kahoka, MO 63445

Marthasville – Sat., Sept. 25, 8 AM to noon
MFA Agri Services
304 Depot St., Marthasville, MO 63357

Meet Your **MIRC MEMBER** SAMI OSTMANN

Sami Ostmann joined the Missouri Interagency Recycling Committee (MIRC) in 2019. She is using the knowledge gained from MIRC to assist with her role at the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT).

An Illinois native, Sami is a graduate of the University of Missouri, where she received her degree in biology. Upon graduation, she settled in Missouri and began a career with MoDOT.

As a senior environmental specialist, Sami's duties include reviewing federally-funded projects.

"I also review some state-funded maintenance projects within the northwest/northeast districts. I evaluate the impacts the projects may have on threatened and endangered species, wetlands, and migratory birds," Sami stated. "This involves field work to conduct wetland delineations, bridge checks, and tree/stream surveys for suitable habitat of threatened or endangered species."

Being a MIRC member has allowed Sami



Sami Ostmann

to learn and share valuable information that has helped make MoDOT more conscious of its impact.

"I joined MIRC to learn more about how MoDOT reuses and recycles and what I can do to help facilitate the process," Sami stated.

Sami makes sure that the information she obtains in the MIRC meetings are shared amongst her MoDOT peers.

"I hope I can gain a good understanding of the process in which MIRC facilitates fiscally and environmentally responsible strategies for reuse and recycling of state property," Sami said.

MIRC has helped Sami become much more aware of recycling in and outside of MoDOT.

In her personal life, Sami is tackling more sustainable endeavors.

"My favorite thing to do is spend time with my family. As a child I loathed cooking; but, now cooking is one of my favorite activities. I've recently discovered I love making my own cold process soap and gardening. This year I am attempting to start my own vegetables from seed. Time will tell if I'm successful! If not, I'll try again next year."

Reuse Program Saves State Thousands of Dollars

For more than 20 years, the State Printing Center (SPC) and the State Data Center (SDC) have developed a "closed loop," box reuse program where boxes of printed letters from the SDC are shipped to SPC for processing and the boxes are returned to SDC for reuse.

On average, more than 100 boxes are returned to the SDC for reuse each week, saving the state more than \$5,200 each year.

"The State Printing Center and Central Mail Services is always interested in ways we can recycle and reuse products, and the box reuse program is a longstanding success story for us. Saving \$5,000 a year may not seem like a lot of money, but it adds up over time," State Printing Manager Jessica Cadell noted. "SPC also offers the option to our customers to

print on recycled paper products. We recently instituted recycling programs for used printer cartridges, as well as cans and bottles. Every little bit we can do to close the loop helps."

RIGHT: These boxes are being reused, which saves the state thousands of dollars each year.

CALLING RECYCLING NEWS!

If you have any recycling news to share, we want to hear about it.

Email Edward.Lang@oa.mo.gov to tell your story.

We look forward to hearing from you!





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Calling All Recycling Champions

JUNE 2021



If you know someone who meets the criteria below, please consider nominating them for a recycling champion award. Nominations may be for an individual or a team.

1 Is your nominee the office recycling champion?

2 Do they make sure your office or agency has products made from recycled materials?

3 Have they reduced waste for your agency?

4 Do they promote reuse? Are they an active user of the online application MOREuse?

Past recycling champion individuals and agencies Include:

2016 Individual: Kelly Brunson, OA-Personnel

Team: Earth Day Committee, DNR

2017 Individual: Chris Terry, DPS-State Highway Patrol

Team: Brandt Vocational Enterprises, DMH-Fulton State Hospital

2018 Individual: Kevin Vanover, DNR

Team: Howerton Building Green Team, DSS

2019 Individual: Sharon Hultberg, DNR
Team: Information Technology Services Division, OA

2020 Individual: Nancy Tennison, State Treasurer's Office

Team: Department of Revenue

Click [here](#) to nominate a recycling champion or team in this easy online form.

Please visit the Missouri State Recycling Program [website](#) for a complete list of award recipients.

UPCOMING EVENT

Free Buy Recycled Workshop

June 23 | 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Learn more and register [here](#).

The Missouri State Recycling Program has been part of a multi-stakeholder team developing workshops centered around ways to support recycling markets.

Highlights of the workshop include:

- 1.5 contact hours of training (Universal Public Procurement Certification Council approved)
- The importance of sustainable purchasing with an emphasis on buying recycled products
- Learn about tools for finding recycled products



SUBMIT PHOTOS

Send us a picture of you with your favorite product made from recycled materials. Please email Edward.Lang@oa.mo.gov your photos.

Meet Your MIRC MEMBER MICHELLE HALLFORD

Michelle Hallford has a knack for rejuvenating items. Her creative nature and eye for potential has contributed to a fiscally responsible Governor's Office when it comes to item acquisitions. She is the manager of the Governor's Office and a Missouri Interagency Recycling Committee (MIRC) member.

"I don't recall the year I became a member of the MIRC committee, but I have been actively recycling, reusing, refurbishing and donating for most of my career in state government. Taking care of the earth and our state resources has long been a priority," Michelle stated.

Recycling and reuse is a vital part of the Governor's Office according to Michelle.

"It is important for all leaders of the State of Missouri, including the Governor's Office, to set a good example and be the best stewards of Missouri revenue," she stated.

Being a 31-year veteran of state employment, Michelle has learned how to exhaust all recycling resources before



Michelle Hallford

making a purchase, both at work and at home.

"It's mind-opening to see how much waste we generate on a daily basis," she stated.

In addition, knowledge gained from MIRC has made a wide impact within the office.

"I think the team I work with may be learning a lot from my recycling ways because I've overheard statements like, 'don't let Michelle see you throw that away.' I've been seen in the building with old furniture with stain and a brush refurbishing reused furniture we've acquired from other agencies," Michelle stated.

The office is not the only place where Michelle uses her recycling and reuse knowledge, but she has brought that knowledge to her home.

"When I was young I wanted everything to be new, but as I learn more about reusing/upcycling, I take pride in making the 'old' stuff my own. I have found that I enjoy Facebook Marketplace and going to thrift stores more and more," she stated.

When Michelle isn't reusing, refurbishing, and recycling she enjoys spending time with her six grandchildren, listening to books, walking, and organizing.

BUYING RECYCLED PROMOTES SUSTAINABILITY

When we think of recycling, many of us think about the act of placing the can, bottle, or piece of paper into a recycling container. This is the first step in a series of processes that sends materials on their way to be recycled. The ultimate recycling goal is for material that is collected to be used as a raw material to manufacture new products. This is the part of recycling that tends to be forgotten.

The good news is that it is getting easier to buy recycled. More corporations are making commitments to consume more scrap materials and use these to manufacture new consumer goods and packaging. A significant amount of investment has been made in domestic recycling infrastructure over the past several years, which positions the United States to consume more scrap materials.

The State of Missouri has several contracts

where recycled products can be ordered. Here's a list of those [contracts](#).

To see the journey of how products are recycled, click the following links:

[Recycling Journey-Aluminum](#)
[Recycling Journey-Glass](#)
[Recycling Journey-Paper](#)
[Recycling Journey-Plastic](#)
[Recycling Journey-Steel](#)

The items pictured to the right are manufactured from recycled materials. The State of Missouri makes an effort to purchase supplies that promotes sustainability.

RECYCLING TIP

- Do you have a recycling question?
- Do you need a recycling container or supplies?

Contact recycling@oa.mo.gov for any recycling needs.





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Jefferson Building Clean Up

SEPTEMBER 2021

Have you ever had to clean out a garage or basement that's full of years' worth of accumulated...junk? Items you think you'll use again one day, or that are still useful that you don't want to throw away just yet, or maybe something that's broken that you hope you'll get around to fixing? Now imagine that but in a state office building, with years and years' worth of furniture, office supplies, electronics, and more! That was the situation the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) found themselves in when the Thomas Jefferson State Office Building needed to have the storage areas in the basement cleared out before it could undergo renovations next year. In undertaking the monumental task so the contractors had space to work, DESE reached out to the Missouri State Recycling Program (MSRP) for assistance.

The MSRP was able to secure the necessary resources to recycle:

- 5,860 pounds of cardboard
- 6,430 pounds of paper
- 598 pounds of metals
- 20 pallets of electronics
- Countless items were shared on [MOREuse](#), which were given new uses throughout state government

The recycling contractors made special pickups, and the Missouri State Agency for Surplus Property was able to provide additional recycling containers on short notice, making it possible to recycle this massive volume of material over a two-week period! While much of the material and items were recycled, there were 2,336 pounds of trash collected as well.



After two weeks of cleaning, these once full storage shelves, are nearly empty.

DESE's Continuous Improvement Coordinator, Jake King, worked alongside Rob Didriksen, the State Recycling Manager, to help facilitate the cleanup. King praised the attention to detail and work ethic shown.

"I have been impressed with the level of involvement each office has had with this cleanup project. Many team members worked hard to clear out unneeded and unused items, which led to several tons of material being removed from the basement and a number of reusable resources being distributed across the state," King stated. "This was one of my first large projects with DESE, and I was happy to be a part of it. While this work is not yet completed, our fellow team members have taken the first, important step on this big project, and did a great job."

Didriksen echoed King's praise about
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WE WANT YOU TO MEET THE CHALLENGE!

America Recycles Day (ARD) was first celebrated on November 15, 1997. Since then, ARD has been celebrated from coast to coast. The Missouri State Recycling Program (MSRP) wants to challenge state agencies to consider hosting an ARD event in your office this year. Below are links to resources for ideas and organizational tips to consider.

State agencies hosting an ARD event between now and the end of 2021 can receive a box of pens made from recycled materials to promote the event.

For additional information about ARD, click [here](#).

For resources to organize an America Recycles Day event, click [here](#).

SUSTAINABLE PURCHASE

In fiscal year 2021 (FY21), OA's Facilities Management Design Team engaged in several "green" carpet installation projects. "Green" carpet means that it has a minimum 35 percent recycled content and the modular backing for these carpet tiles are PVC-free. PVC is a type of plastic that is common in carpet products and has potentially harmful characteristics to human health. The Missouri State Recycling Program applauds FMDC's decision to purchase more than \$68,000 of this carpet!

Meet Your MIRC MEMBER DOUG VAUGHT

Doug Vaught has been a driving force for change at the Public Service Commission (PSC). As the overseer of the Public Service Commission Building Mail Room, he knows the importance of recycling and how it reduces waste. PSC recycles paper, plastic bottles, and aluminium cans.

Though Vaught has been with PSC for several years, he did not begin his current role as a MIRC member until October 2019.

"I oversee all PSC mail that is delivered to all 10 floors of the building," Vaught said of his support services technician duties.

Vaught was soon drafted into the Missouri Interagency Recycling Committee (MIRC) after his promotion.

"It came with the position. I thought it was great," he said, explaining that the tradition of being a MIRC member went hand in hand with the position.

Vaught has found being involved with the Missouri State Recycling Program (MSRP) very helpful. He has downloaded recycling sign resources from the MSRP



Doug Vaught

site and has placed printed copies in areas that help define what can and can't be recycled. This helps reduce contamination.

Vaught is always looking for ways to save money. He was excited when the MSRP decided to send a weekly paper collection

survey to determine if a collection was necessary for that particular week. Vaught fills out this survey every Monday, which notifies the recycling contractor only when his five bins are full of paper. He said this has saved money by cutting the costs of unnecessary pickups.

Since Vaught has been spreading the news about recycling, team members around him have caught on.

"People are recycling more now, than before," he said, adding that many team members have made recycling a daily part of their lives.

Vaught is a firm believer in the phrase, "recycling makes a difference."

Vaught is an Iberia graduate and was in the United State Marine Corps for six years. He loves spending time with his wife and six children. In his free time, he is an avid CB radio user and is a member of the local CB radio club. While not in the office, you may be able to spot him on his yellow 1952 Minneapolis Moline tractor in parades in Jefferson City.

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the teamwork that contributed to the successful project.

"The DESE management team did a fantastic job of organizing and managing this major undertaking to clear out the Jefferson Building basement," Didriksen stated. "An astounding 60 pallets of paper, cardboard, metal, and electronics are now being recycled!"

RIGHT: Several pallets of electronic waste will be recycled from the basement of the Thomas Jefferson State Office Building.

BOTTOM: Pallets of material were gathered during the cleanup that will be recycled.



RECYCLING TIP

Want to know how much money your agency is saving by using MOREuse? It's easy!

Download the cost avoided form on the [MOREuse](#) site by logging into your account. On the right side of the page next to the Message Board you will find the dashboard. To download and see how your agency is doing, click the "Export to Excel" link.

Once your file is downloaded, you will be able to view all information in an Excel spreadsheet. This information tracks all property being given or taken on MOREuse. Each item is assigned a value and that value is added together to arrive at the "cost-avoided" figure. This document is a great way to track your agency's savings.



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RECYCLING CHAMPIONS AWARDED

DECEMBER 2021

MOREuse WINS AWARD

The Missouri Recycling Association (MORA) selected the MOREuse system as winner of this year's award for Leadership in Reuse, Waste Reduction, and Recycling. Rob Didriksen, Manager of the Missouri State Recycling Program, and Lee Ann Blythe, Manager of the Missouri State Agency for Surplus Property, accepted the award at MORA's annual conference in Branson in November.

"This was a team award," said Didriksen. "It's one of the most exciting projects I've worked on during my time with the state and it continues to produce results in its 3rd year of operation."

Deployed in 2019, the MOREuse application was designed and built by a collaboration of the Office of Administration's State Surplus Property, State Recycling, and the ITSD Tiger and Loco team. Since then, MOREuse has become a powerful tool promoting reuse in state government.



Missouri State Recycling Program Manager, Rob Didriksen (left) & Missouri State Agency for Surplus Manager Lee Ann Blythe (right) accepts the award from MORA's John Davis.

FY21 TEAM AWARD



(L-R) Mitch Rogge, Mark Hill, George Percival, Rob Didriksen, Andrew Welschmeyer, Joe Ruppel, Scott Emmerich, Luther Harley, Steve Sweeten, Jack Pruitt, Dave Holzer, Willie Wright, Darren Conner, Brad Berendzen, and John Dodd.

The Harry S Truman Maintenance Team does a lot to support recycling in the Capitol Complex. The team operates out of the Truman Building, but provides maintenance and support to numerous buildings in the Capitol Complex. For example, the team hauls scrap metal from the capitol to be recycled when necessary.

Jack Pruitt and Luther Harley spearhead the recycling effort at Truman by managing the day-to-day operations of the baler. They also manage collections of a large variety of materials such as scrap metal, electronics, carpet tiles, and surplus property such as furniture and appliances.

INDIVIDUAL AWARD

Lori Cody is an assistant park superintendent at Montauk State Park, which boasts one of the busiest campgrounds in the Missouri state park system.

In 2019, Lori led a recycling campaign at Montauk when she saw lots of recyclable material in the trash. This led to an evaluation of current practices and resulted in a much more convenient recycling experience for campers. Montauk's program was so successful



Lori Cody

that it was rolled out at other state parks under the title: 'Recycle Rally in State Parks!'

Today, more than 50 percent of state parks with campgrounds have a recycling program. Lori was a part of the Show Me Challenge team called, 'Recycle Rally in State Parks.' The team received second place in the fourth round of the Show Me Challenge competition!

Meet Your **MIRC MEMBER** RACHEAL AJAYI

Racheal Ajayi has always been passionate about the human impact on the environment, which inspired her to pursue a career in an environmental field. For the past two and a half years, she has been part of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) team. Her love of people motivates her to work for a better and cleaner world.

"I am a mother of two active boys and an adventurous spouse. I cherish the beauty of nature and enjoy visiting new places such as museums, historic sites, beaches, and downtown areas of different cities. I also love music and I'm passionate about motivational books and mentoring children. I like to see the young grow to face the challenges ahead of them," Ajayi said.

Ajayi is also focused on educating young students, feeding the hungry, especially vulnerable members of society; such as orphans, single mothers, disabled individuals, and the elderly.

Since 2019, she has coordinated the DNR household hazardous waste and electronic recycling awareness effort for the Waste Management Program. Her role at DNR could not be more pivotal in



Racheal Ajayi

reducing waste...leading efforts around the state to promote good recycling practices.

"The department promotes recycling in many areas. For example, we award grants to support qualifying initiatives geared toward recycling. Some of these grants are used to transform used tires to playgrounds, picnic tables and even in road construction. Furthermore, the department also participates in the state recycling program," she said. "In addition,

we participate in the MOREuse program where unwanted furniture is transferred from one state agency to another."

Her passion about recycling is evident in her work on the Missouri Inter-Agency Recycling Committee (MIRC). Before she joined MIRC, Ajayi partnered with the MO State Recycling Program (MSRP) for its annual America Recycles Day in November. For the past few years Racheal has led an initiative with several other state team members to bring holiday light recycling to state offices.

"Recycling is easy and fulfilling, especially when it becomes a routine. We all have a responsibility to preserve the future for upcoming generations. Every effort made toward conserving energy, water, and our natural resources is worth it. I strongly believe that we can all make a significant contribution," Ajayi said. "Recycling is not just a feel-good activity, but a resourceful lifestyle, which involves caring for others and the environment. According to research conducted by EPA in 2016, recycling generated 681,000 jobs, \$37.8 billion in wages and \$5.5 billion in tax revenues in the U.S."

DESE SCHOOL IN KANSAS CITY COMPOSTS

The Maple Valley School in Kansas City, which is certified by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, has developed various systems to recycle plastics, paper, and cardboard. Recycling has been a part of the school culture for years. This inspired a solution to a problem they were having with a staffing shortage in the cafeteria.

Prior to the start of the 2021-2022 school year, school staff brainstormed about how to reduce time spent in the kitchen. After some research and communicating with local recycling and composting companies, the decision was made to utilize lunch trays made from sugarcane fibers, which can be collected and recycled for compost. Using these trays eliminates crucial staff time previously spent washing trays. Instead, the trays are collected for composting. When the bin is full, the trays are taken to Missouri Organic Recycling

Center in Kansas City, and made into compost.

As the school year got underway, the school did not have a bin that would hold a significant amount of trays. Susan Miller, a home school coordinator at Maple Valley School, reached out to the Missouri State Recycling Program (MSRP) for assistance with obtaining a recycling container. The MSRP was able to provide a container that would hold a large amount of trays, which resulted in fewer trips to drop off compostable items.

On behalf of the school, State Representative Chris Brown, picked up the bin in September while attending meetings in Jefferson City.

(RIGHT) Missouri State Representative Chris Brown picks up a large recycling bin at the Harry S Truman Building for Maple Valley School.

FIND OUT WHERE!

HOLIDAY LIGHT RECYCLING LOCATIONS

As the holidays approach, state office buildings are making it easier to dispose of holiday lights. Click [here](#) to see collection locations around Jefferson City until January 31.

